

IN THE CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A system, comprising:
 - a computer rack;
 - a plurality of computers provided in the computer rack, each computer comprising a computer chassis containing at least a processor and a data storage device; and
 - a plenum extending from the computer rack for channeling cooling air from the plurality of computers provided in the computer rack to a location exterior to a site where the computer rack is located;
 - wherein the computer rack and the plurality of computers are configured to channel cooling air through each of the plurality of the computers and out of the computer rack through the plenum.
2. The computer system of claim 1, further comprising:
 - an exhaust duct coupled to the plenum for channeling cooling air from the computer rack to the location exterior to the site where the computer rack is located.
3. The computer system of claim 1, wherein:
 - at least two computers are provided in a back-to-back configuration in the computer rack such that the at least two computers and the computer rack cooperate to define a space between the at least two computers to direct cooling air flowing into said space through the at least two computers out of the plenum.
4. The computer system of claim 1, further comprising:
 - a fan provided in the plenum for drawing the cooling air out of the computer rack.

5. The computer system of claim 1, wherein:
said plenum extends from a top portion of the computer rack.
6. The computer system of claim 1, further comprising:
an air conditioning system for supplying cooling air to the computer rack.
7. The computer system of claim 6, further comprising:
cooling air ductwork coupled to the air conditioning system for supplying
cooling air from below the computer rack.
8. A method of cooling a computer rack, comprising:
providing cooling air from an air conditioning system to a computer room
containing at least one computer rack, each of said computer racks comprising a
plurality of computers and a plenum extending from the computer rack, each of said
computers comprising a computer chassis containing at least a processor and a data
storage device;
drawing cooling air into the computing rack through the plurality of
computers to cool heat-generating components contained in the computers; and
exhausting the cooling air out of the computer rack via the plenum to a
location exterior to the computer room.
9. The method of claim 8, wherein:
said exhausting the cooling air comprises exhausting the cooling air from the
plenum to an exhaust duct coupled to the plenum.
10. The method of claim 8, wherein:
said exhausting the cooling air comprises exhausting the cooling air from a
top portion of the cooling rack to the plenum.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein at least two of the computers are provided in a back-to-back configuration in the computer rack such that the at least two computers and the computer rack cooperate to define a space between the at least two computers, the method further comprising:

directing the cooling air drawn through the plurality of computers into the space between the at least two computers; and

channeling the cooling air through the space between the at least two computers to the plenum.

12. The method of claim 8, wherein said providing cooling air from the air condition system comprises:

generating the cooling air with the air conditioning system; and

passing the cooling air from the air conditioning system through cooling air ductwork provided below the computer rack to the computer rack.

13. A computer farm, comprising:

a computer room containing:

a plurality of computer racks, each computer rack comprising a plurality of computers, each of the computers comprising a computer chassis containing at least a processor and a data storage device; and

a plurality of plenums, each plenum extending from one of the plurality of computer racks for channeling cooling air from the plurality of computers provided in the computer rack out of the computer room; and
an air conditioning system for supplying cooling air to the computer racks.

14. The computer farm of claim 13, further comprising:

exhaust ductwork coupled to the plenums for drawing cooling air from the computer room.

15. The computer farm of claim 13, wherein:

each of the plenums extends from a top portion of one of the computer racks.

16. The computer farm of claim 13, further comprising:

cooling air ductwork coupled to the air conditioning system for supplying cooling air to the computer racks from below the computer racks.

17. The computer farm of claim 13, wherein:

each of the computer racks is configured to draw cooling air into the computer rack through the computers and to exhaust the cooling air through the plenum.

18. The computer farm of claim 13, wherein:

each of the computer racks is configured such that at least two of the computers contained in the computer rack are provided in a back-to-back configuration in the computer rack such that the at least two computers and the computer rack cooperate to define a space between the at least two computers to direct cooling air flowing into said space through the at least two computers out of the plenum.